# Marlborough and Ramsbury Rural District Council.

# MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1940

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen.

I have the honour to submit to you my 21st Annual Report on the Public Health and Sanitary Administration of your district.

This report is brief and is according to instructions received from the Ministry of Health in their circular 2314 dated March 26th, 1941.

I have the honour to remain.

Your obedient servant.

A. H. WILSON.

18 Victoria Road, Salisbury.

Medical Officer of Health.

### VITAL STATISTICS.

Population—Census 1931: 10,721

Population—Estimated Mid. 1940—10,270.

Area, 94,511 Acres

Rateable Value: £39,336

Sum represented by Penny Rate: £168 6 7

Number of Inhabited Houses as shown by Rate Books end of 1940: **3**.085.

Births, 1940.	maie.	Female.	Total.	
Live	92	74	166	(10 Illegitimate)
Still	3	1	4	( 0 Illegitimate)
Birth Rate 1	940		Fngland	and Wales

Live 16.1 14.6 Live Still Still 0.380.55

Birth Rate Average last 7 years 14.2 England and Wales

Deaths: Males, 67. Females 68. Total, 136.

(1940) 11.2 Average last 7 years 10.6 Death Rate England and Wales ,, 14.3 ,, 7, 12.2

Number of deaths of infants under one year of age: Males 7 Females 4. Total, 11.

Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1,000 Live Births) 63.9 (1940)

England and Wales 55.0 Infantile Mortality Average last 7 years 44.9 England and Wales ,, 55.0

The AREAL COMPARABILITY FACTOR 85.

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASES

	Total Cases	Cases admitted	Total
Disease.	notified	to Hospital.	deaths.
Scarlet Fever	30	28	0
Diphtheria	3 (1 Mil.)	3 .	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	1.	0
Pneumonia	23	2	2
Erysipelas	5	2	0
Measles	187	1	<b>0</b>
Whooping Cough	5	0	0
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	7 (3 Mil).	7 (3 Mil)	0
Poliomyelitis	0	0 ` ′	0

Scarlet Fever. Of the 30 cases notified 15 arose at Avebury during the first five months of the year and were a continuation of the epidemic which started during the autumn of 1939 which commenced among some evacuees. No more cases arose and the other cases were distributed all over the district sporadically during the year.

Diphtheria. Three cases were notified but one was from Savernake Hospital which had been sent there from another district and died, and one case was among the military in the district which only leaves one case belonging to the district proper.

Puerperal Pyrexia. Two cases were notified and call for no comment.

Erysipelas. Five cases were notified, two were treated in the Isolation Hospital and all recovered.

Pneumonia. Twenty-three cases were notified which is a large number for this district but 14 of these were by one practitioner. Only two of those notified to me died.

Measles and Whooping Cough. Of the 187 of the former and 5 of the latter it was only necessary to admit to Hospital one case and this turned out not to be measles.

Cerebro-spinal Fever. Seven cases were notified and of these three were military in the district; they were all admitted to some Hospital bur only four to the Marlborough Hospital. Two of those admitted to Hospital proved eventually not to be the disease. None of these patients died.

Tuberculosis. Twenty cases were notified but 8 of these were transfers from other districts due to evacuation and are now not considered to be permently belonging to the district.

#### The Notifications were:-

Male Pulm.	1 b	etwee	n 25–35	2 b	etwe	en 35-45
•					1	over 65
Female Pulm	2	,,	15–20	1	,,	20–25
	1	,,	25-35			
Male Non. P.	2	,,	1- 5			
Female N. P.	1	,,	10–15	1	,,	20–25

#### Deaths were :-

Male Pulm.	1	between	35-45	1 over 65
M. Non. Pul.	1	,,	1- 5	

### Water Supply.

The Ramsbury, Aldbourne and Chilton Foliat Water Supply Scheme is giving satisfactory service. At the close of the year, the following numbers of properties were taking water from the mains:—

Ramsbury 250 houses or 70% of the properties adjoining the mains.

In addition water is being supplied to several Military Camps at Aldbourne and Chilton Foliat. Further progress in connecting 60 more properties to the mains is slow owing to the shortage of labour.

There is no change at Bedwyn and Chisbury.

Both waters are frequently Bacteriologically examined giving very satisfactory results.

Now (1941) the Ramsbury water supply is chlorinated.

At Baydon the supply remains satisfactory.

# Rivers, Streams and Ponds.

No action taken during the year.

# Public Cleansing.

No change.

# Special Legislation and Legal Action.

No change in Legislation.

During the year proceedings were taken, under the Byelaws as to Buildings, and a conviction secured against an owner of a dwelling house for having erected same without giving notice or depositing plans as required by these byelaws.

#### HOUSING.

No formal action was taken during the year respecting unfit houses.

As a result of informal action 34 houses, found not fit in all respects for habitation, were rendered fit out of 41 houses inspected. A further 148 houses were inspected and found fit for habitation.

## Overcrowding.

As a result of Evacuation, and the whole district being made a Reception Area, many of the houses are somewhat overcrowded as measured by ordinary Housing Acts standards but no serious case came to light and no action was taken.

#### SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

	No. of Inspections.	No. of Defects.	Informal Notices.	Statutory Notices.	Remedied Cr by 3.	Remedied by 4.	Remedied after verbal instructions
Nuisances	368	120	21		16	***	44
Slaughter- houses				Bothamage			
Knackers'							
Yards	•	خسكنهب	-			-	*****
Places where food is prepared	<b></b>			_		•	
Cowsheds Dairies and Milkstores	>266	35	16		16		16
Tents, Vans,	20	_			~		9
Sheds, etc.	26	$\frac{7}{6}$	5		$rac{5}{2}$		$egin{array}{c} 2 \ 2 \end{array}$
Bakehouses Butcher's	18	O	4	******	4	-	Z
Shops	14						8
Totals	692	168	46		41	*****	63

### Milk and Dairies, etc.

Number of	Wholesale Producers registered (1940)	• • •	131
,,	Retail Purveyors registered (1940)	• • •	46
	Certificates issued (Producers) during 1940	•••	0
• •	Certificates issued (Retailers) during 1940	•••	0
Approxima	te number of Cows	•••	5,500

#### Meat and Other Foods.

Number of Registered Slaughter-houses

Number of Licenced Slaughter-houses

No slaughter-houses were in use in the district during the year, all slaughtering being carried out in Ministry of Food slaughterhouses in Marlborough.

Notices received of Regular Slaughter	•••••	•••••	•••••	•••••	NiĮ
Notices received of Casual Slaughter	•••••	•••••	•••••	•••••	61
Number of Condemnations					3

# TOTAL CAUSES OF DEATH.

Causes of Death.	м.	F.		Causes of Death. M.	F
All Causes	67	68		Appendicitis	
Typhoid and Paratyphoid				Other digest. diseases 4	3
Cerebrospinal Fever				Nephritis 2	
Scarlet Fever				Puerp. and postabort. sepsis	
Whooping Cough				Other maternal causes	
Diphtheria				Premature birth 1	1
	2			Cong. malf. birth inj. Inf. dis. 5	3
Other form of Tuberc.	1			Suicide	1
Syphilitic Diseases				Road Traffic Act 1	1
Influenza		4	-	Other violent causes 1	1
Measles			Ì	All other causes 12	6
Ac. Polio-myelitis and Ence	eph.			Deaths of Infants under 1 year—	
Ac. Inf. Enceph	-			Total 7	4
Cancer of b. cav; and				Legitimate 7	4
oesoph (N	1.)			Illegitimate	
uterus (F)	)			Live Births	
Cancer of stomach and				For Birth-rate	
duodenum	3			Total 92	74
Cancer of breast		2		Legitimate 84	72
Cancer of all other sites	5	1	}	Illegitimate 8	2
Diabetes				For Inf. Mortrate	
Intra. cran. vasc. lesions	5	10		Total 94	<b>7</b> 8
Heart disease	10	17		Legitimate 86	76
Other dis. of circ. syst	3	7		Illegitimate 8	2
Bronchitis	8	7		Stillbirths	
Pneumonia	3	3		Total 3	1
Other Resp. diseases	1			Legitimate 3	1
Ulcer of stomach & duodenu	.m	1		Illegitimate	
Diarrhoea under two years				Population 10,2	70

